

He also noted that such a device would have allowed other organizations to become involved in the project.

For the Society's purposes, he continued, a building that is not on Main Street would not be satisfactory, in particular with regard to the proposed museum, which will be primarily a railroad museum, and therefore, must be located near a railroad line. He also cited the present financial straits of the Society, and the fact that at this point in time, the organization's manpower is rather limited.

Mr. Buberniak stated that it is most probable that the school would be no more than a burden to the Society, given the fact that there would be little hope of community support for the project. He also expressed the belief that the only way that the necessary repairs to the building could be accomplished would be through the awarding of grants to the Society.

Dr. Powell asked the officers if it seemed to them that the Society would be capable of handling the project, and if the various options should be explored before making a decision. Mr. Yepsen replied that a joint meeting should be set up with the Loftus Neighborhood Association, to determine whether or not there is still any interest in the project by that group. Mr. Hepburn volunteered to set up such a meeting, and to check with City officials to determine exactly what could be done with the building in terms of zoning restrictions. Mr. Jomaine offered to meet with the Carbondale YMCA and the Serendipity Center, to ascertain the interest that those organizations might have in the project.

Dr. Powell noted that he would write a letter to the Carbondale Area School District, informing the Board of Directors that the Society is somewhat interested, and at present is exploring possible uses for the school.

Dr. Powell then reported that he and Robert Davis, Carbondale City Manager, had met with George Joel, of the Stanton Area Foundation, regarding the Society's proposal for a grant from the Foundation. Dr. Powell reported that he had given Mr. Joel a tour of Carbondale, pointing out the areas of the Society's concern and involvement, and then escorted him to a meeting with Mayor Charlotte Mono and Davis. The Foundation, he added, had met on 2 October, and an answer is expected in the near future. Dr. Powell opined that he did not feel that the Foundation would award the grant to the Society, based on his conversation with Mr. Joel.

Dr. Powell then read a letter that Mr. Jomaine had written to Bob Maguire, of the Pioneer Days Committee, in which a joint meeting was requested. He noted that the original of the letter had been hand delivered to Mr. Maguire on 2 October.

Regarding the proposed fund-raising concert by the Alllyn Benson Revue, Mr. Yepsen moved that the Society decline the offer, and Mr. Jomaine seconded. All were in favour with the exception of Mr. Loftus, who abstained from the vote. The vote followed a discussion on the costs and benefits of the concert. Specifically, it was noted that it seemed less than likely that there existed a reasonable chance of the Society's making any profit on the event, due to the costs that would be incurred.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc. was held at 9:15 pm, Tuesday, 2 October, 1984, in Room 301, Carbondale City Hall. In attendance were, S. Robert Powell, PM, President, John V. Buberniak, First Vice-President, Hank Loftus, Second Vice-President, Howard Yepsen, Treasurer, Robert J. Jomaine, Secretary, and James Hepburn.

The primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the Society's contemplated acquisition of the former George Washington School, on South Main Street, Carbondale. Dr. Powell raised the question of whether or not the Society actually wants the structure, and if so, what would be its ultimate purpose. Mr. Loftus opined that there would be several possibilities, to wit, use by the various organizations in the City as meeting rooms, with each group paying a prorated share of the costs of upkeep and maintenance; rental of a portion to the Carbondale YMCA; use as the site of a museum, rather than the former Post Office as had been planned for the application to the National Endowment for the Humanities; or a possible trade to the City, in which the Society would obtain title to City Hall.

Mr. Yepsen asked how the Society would actually go about getting the school, and whether or not taxes would have to be paid on it. Dr. Powell replied that it seems that if the Society merely asked for it, the Carbondale Area School District would be willing to turn it over to the Society. He added that the Society would not be required to pay taxes on it, due to the non-profit status presently held by the Society.

Mr. Hepburn noted that during his tour of the school on 1 October, he had observed that the overall condition of the building is not extremely bad. He cited that the west roof needs repair, as do the ceilings in several first and second floor rooms. He added that the wiring, heating, and plumbing systems seem to be in good condition, and that there are three pianos still remaining inside. He also said that the school is laid out with five classrooms upstairs, five downstairs, two bathrooms, several small rooms, and two boilers.

Dr. Powell, who had also been on the tour, observed that the school is in better overall condition than the third floor of City Hall, and that, in any event, the condition is not a major consideration in the Society's decision on whether or not to proceed with the acquisition.

Mr. Jomaine suggested that, while he did not necessarily feel that the Society should go ahead with such plans, it would seem prudent to investigate whether or not there would be any other organizations that would be willing to commit themselves to an involvement in the building. He suggested that the YMCA, and the Serendipity Center, in Honesdale, be contacted.

Mr. Hepburn stated that the Loftus Neighborhood Association, for all intents and purposes, has collapsed. Dr. Powell opined that the collapse was unfortunate, in that a cooperative acquisition of the school by the Society and the Association would have been mutually beneficial, with the Association having been in a position to make use of the school under the umbrella-organizational status of the Society.

Mr. Loftus then stated that, since the Society is now a member of the Lackawanna County Rail Users' Association, he would be representing the organization's interests at the next meeting, to be held at 11:00 am, 5 October, in the Lackawanna County Courthouse Administration Building.

Dr. Powell, noting the assistance provided by the Loftus family in the tax matters of the Society and its predecessor organization, the Committee to Retain Carbondale City Hall, stated that he had recently received a telephone call from one Betty Zavlonski, of the Internal Revenue Service, who had been both pleasant and helpful in their conversation. He added that it appears that the IRS is, at present, being held at bay.

On the subject of the Society's annual dinner meeting, Mr. Yepsen stated that he would attend to the necessary details regarding a suitable location. Dr. Powell promised that he would contact Stanton Mayor James Barrett Multy, to determine whether or not he would be interested in being the guest speaker for the evening.

For the record, it is noted that a rare Hendrick Fire Department helmet has been donated to the Society by Mrs. Connie Buberniak, 46 Canaan Street, Carbondale.

Mr. Yepsen then explained that there appears to be a problem with bank statements in the Society's two loans. Liberty Bank check number 250, in the amount of \$2000 to the First National Bank of Carbondale, has not cleared the bank, but is apparently listed as having been paid. Dr. Powell and Mr. Yepsen will meet with officials of the banks, to determine the cause of the discrepancy, and work out the proper solution.

With all business thus concluded, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.

Robert J. Jomaine, Secretary